

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, I was unable to vote on Roll Call vote No. 72: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5001, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for the other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## FEBRUARY CONSTITUENTS OF THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Cynthia and W.B. May, two veterans and owners of Cynthia's Artistic Expressions in Oceanside, California, as my Constituents of the Month for their invaluable contributions to our community.

After both serving in the Navy during the Gulf War, W.B. was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, and Cynthia was diagnosed with anxiety. Once they separated from the military, they realized they needed a way to express themselves and manage their post-traumatic stress and anxiety. They opened Cynthia's Artistic Expressions in order to help veterans and others deal with mental or emotional health challenges, while also making art more accessible, and their establishment has become an integral piece of our Oceanside community. Since they opened their doors, they have seen countless veterans, servicemembers, and civilians benefit from therapeutic art healing. At a time when our nation is grappling with tragic rates of veteran suicide, I am very grateful that they provide this healing opportunity for our local military community.

Cynthia and W.B. strengthen our community far beyond the doors of their art studio, too. They are known for doing extensive outreach to the community of veterans and military families around Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, hosting food drives through their church, Shiloh Church of God in Christ in Oceanside, on the last Thursday of every month for servicemembers and their families who struggle with food insecurity. According to the San Diego Food Bank, nearly 39,000 veterans and active-duty military personnel and their dependents use their services every month, so the work that Cynthia and W.B. do to help feed military families is critically important. They have also worked with vet centers and retirement homes to lighten the facilities with fine art, and they have also donated their time to organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the North County African American Women's Association (NCAAWA).

I created a Constituent of the Month program to recognize local individuals who give back to our community in extraordinary ways,

but who often don't receive the recognition they deserve. Cynthia and W.B. certainly meet that criteria, and I cannot thank them enough for everything they have contributed to make Oceanside a brighter, healthier place. It's also my honor to recognize them during Black History Month, when we celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of Black Americans throughout our Nation's history. On behalf of a proud and grateful community, it's my pleasure to recognize them as our Constituents of the Month.

## HONORING YULONDA BELL FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Yulonda Bell serves as Associate Dean for Student Services at Polk State College, where she listens to, learns from, and encourages people from all walks of life to achieve their dreams. Bell is a strong leader who does not seek the spotlight and prefers to work in the background providing guidance and support that fosters student success.

Born and raised in Bartow, Bell was a teen parent who overcame obstacles to achieve her diploma and provide for her family. Her perseverance resulted in her achievement of an associate degree from Polk Community College, a bachelor's degree from Warner University, and a master's degree from Webster University—all while raising two sons.

She first served Polk County Public Schools, followed by positions with the Florida Department of Children and Families, and finally Polk State College. She was the first in her family to achieve a college diploma, providing her with an understanding of the challenges that students of color and first-generation-in-college students face as they navigate higher education.

She is a leader on campus, serving as an advisor to the Black Student Union, a founder of S.I.S.T.E.R.S. (Strong, Independent Sisters, That Encourage, Respect, and Survive), and a mentor for Polk State Basketball and STEM Club students.

She also invests time as a member of the organizing committee for the City of Winter Haven Juneteenth Celebration, serving on the City of Winter Haven's Martin Luther King Committee, volunteering at the Neighborhood Service Center, and participating in Lift Lakeland to improve race relations and expand economic, education, and civic involvement.

Bell lives Maya Angelou's quote, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," as she plays an important role in supporting students and celebrating their achievements.

## RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF BAKERSFIELD

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Women's Club of Bakersfield on their 126th birthday.

Founded in 1896, the Women's Club of Bakersfield is the oldest cultural club in Kern County. They erected their first building in 1900 and after outgrowing it, moved into their current home in November 1921.

The Women's Club not only provides a dedicated space for women to organize, but they also have a rich history of philanthropic work within the community. Some of the Club's achievements include their advocacy for Women's Suffrage, help to create the first public library in Bakersfield, and preservation efforts for the Beale Clock Tower and California Redwoods. They also provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to local students and do important work to support local troops and veterans.

Their dedication to service and giving back has been felt by thousands of people throughout Kern County. These women of all ages and backgrounds are a true testament to the passion and selflessness that epitomizes our Central Valley community.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Women's Club of Bakersfield for 126 years of service to the Bakersfield community.

## COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARELINK

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today commemorating the 25th anniversary of the University Health CareLink. For more than two decades, CareLink has provided invaluable healthcare services to Bexar County's most vulnerable residents. I am honored to recognize their efforts this day.

Bexar County has long struggled to make sure that every resident can access consistent, high-quality health care. Many county residents live below the poverty line, are uninsured, and struggle to get by. Since 1997, CareLink under University Health System has stepped up to meet the needs facing our less fortunate. University Health has transformed the lives of the uninsured by offering its members comprehensive and flexible care based on each member's unique circumstance.

For 25 years CareLink has provided 461,472 low-income, uninsured residents access to a full range of medical services. CareLink now averages 27,850 members each month and connects 100 percent of its members with a health care provider. CareLink has become a model for the nation in providing access to essential and affordable health care services.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing 25 years of invaluable service by University Health CareLink. I am confident that